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RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Forty-third session

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION

Eleventh periodic reports of States parties due in 1991

Addendum

NORWAY*

[3 March 1993]

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* The present report constitutes the tenth and eleventh periodic reports of Norway, due on 6 September 1989 and 6 September 1991, respectively, and submitted in one document. For the eighth and ninth periodic reports submitted by the Government of Norway and the summary records of the Committee at which those reports were considered see the following documents:

Eighth periodic report - CERD/C/132/Add.5 (CERD/C/SR.836);
Ninth periodic report - CERD/C/159/Add.4 (CERD/C/SR.836).

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* Copies of annexes I to V, in English, are available in the secretariat for consultation by members of the Committee.

INTRODUCTION

1. Reference is made to Norway's previous periodic reports, in particular to the eighth and ninth reports (CERD/C/132/Add.5 and CERD/C/159/Add.4) and the summary records which concern the examination of those reports (CERD/C/SR.831-862). During the preparation of the tenth periodic report, attention had been paid to the general guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports to be submitted by States parties under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, revised by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its 913th meeting (thirty-ninth session) on 22 March 1991.

2. The present report is primarily devoted to a description of measures adopted since the examination of the eighth and ninth periodic reports. However, in order to assist the Committee in fulfilling the tasks entrusted to it in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention, reference is made to previous documents containing information relevant to the examination of the present report.

PART I - GENERAL

3. Reference is made to the initial part of the reports submitted by Norway, known as the "core document", (HRI/CORE/1/Add.6).

4. Norwegian policy on the elimination of racial discrimination and the general legal framework within which racial discrimination is prohibited has been described in previous reports.

5. As to the demographic composition of the population, reference is made to the sixth periodic report Part 1, and the seventh and eighth reports (paras. 52 and 5 respectively). The following figures show the number of foreign nationals in Norway as of 1 January 1992:

	Foreign nationals	Foreign born with Norwegian citizenship
Total number	147 774	195 717
Europe	74 139	98 070
Africa	10 520	13 060
Asia	43 770	56 194
America	18 017	27 368
Oceania	694	1 025
Unspecified or stateless	634	-

PART II - INFORMATION IN RELATION TO ARTICLES 2 to 7

Article 2

6. As regards the Sami people, a new Article 110 (a) was inserted into the Constitution on 27 May 1988 reading:

> "It is the responsibility of the authorities of the State to create conditions enabling the Sami people to preserve and develop its language, culture and way of life."

7. Act No. 56 of 12 June 1987 relating to the Sami Assembly ("Sametinget") and other Sami legal matters (the Sami Act) entered into force on 24 February 1989. The first election to the Sami Assembly was held in September 1989, and the Sami Assembly was formally inaugurated by the King of Norway on 9 October 1989. For the purpose of the Sami Assembly, Norway is divided into 13 constituencies, each of which has three representatives. The representatives are chosen by direct ballot by and among the Sami people who are registered in the Sami electoral register. All persons who regard themselves as belonging to the Sami population and who use Sami as their language at home, or who have a parent or grandparent who does or has done so, are entitled to be included in the Sami electoral register.

8. The Sami Act was amended by Act No. 78 of 21 December 1990, whereby Sami-speaking people were given the right to use their language in contact with the local and regional authorities. A translation of the Act is contained in annex I. The Act entered into force on 1 January 1992. It sets out the language rights as described in paragraphs 9-22 below.

9. Six municipalities in the counties of Finnmark and Troms, where the Sami language has a strong position, form an administrative area for the Sami language. Special rules apply in this area. It is estimated that around 7,500 people are Sami-speaking in the whole area.

10. Local public bodies in the administrative area are obliged to answer in Sami when members of the public contact them in the Sami language, orally or in writing. Regional public bodies whose geographical area of competence covers the whole or part of the administrative area shall also reply in Sami when they receive written applications from members of the public. The King may extend these duties to public bodies outside the administrative area. Employees in public bodies to which the rules apply have the right to paid leave in order to learn Sami if the body needs such knowledge. It is not required that all the employees of a particular body master Sami, and the body may use interpreters if appropriate.

11. Official announcements that are directed especially towards the population in the administrative area shall appear both in Sami and in Norwegian. Acts and regulations that particularly concern the Sami population shall be translated into Sami. Official forms to be used in contact with public bodies in the administrative area shall be available in Sami and Norwegian.

12. The municipal councils are given the authority to decide that Sami shall be equal to Norwegian in the whole or parts of their administrations. This applies only to internal administration.

13. In addition to these general rights, extended rights to use the Sami language have been established in the legal system, the health and welfare sectors and vis-à-vis the church (sections 3-4, 3-5 and 3-6 of the Act).

14. Everyone shall have the right to learn Sami. Act No. 24 of 13 June 1969 relating to Primary and Lower Secondary Education was amended by Act No. 78 of 21 December 1990 to enhance protection of this right. Children in Sami districts are entitled to an education in or on the Sami language, and the municipal council may make such education compulsory. Outside Sami districts, children with a Sami background may receive instruction in Sami, and if there are at least three Sami-speaking pupils in a school, they may demand such an education.

15. A Sami college of higher education was established in 1989. The college has about 80 students, most of whom are studying to be teachers.

16. Today, the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation transmits through the Sami Radio in Karasjok, for more than 300 hours a year. Sami Radio also produces television programmes concerning Sami issues.

17. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs is planning to establish a Sami cultural council on the basis of the existing Committee on Sami Cultural Affairs. If such a body is established, it will most likely be linked to the Sami Assembly.

18. On 20 June 1990 Norway ratified the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organisation.

19. In the autumn of 1990, the Ministry of Local Government appointed an interministerial working group to examine the possibilities of transferring duties and authority to the Sami Assembly. The working group submitted its recommendation in the spring of 1991, and it was circulated to a large number of institutions and agencies, including the Sami Assembly, for comments.

20. Several of the recommendations of the working group have already been implemented. These concern the administration of budgets for Sami culture and language which have been transferred from the central administration to the Sami Assembly.

21. Some of the allocations to Sami economic activities have also been transferred from the relevant ministries to the Sami Assembly. This has been done in order to strengthen the role and influence of the Sami Assembly.

22. Affirmative action for the benefit of the Sami people is part of official policy, and such measures have been implemented in many fields. In addition to legal measures, the Government also employs financial and organizational measures to implement this policy. Approximately NKr 200 million is allocated each year in direct State support for various Sami activities, institutions, etc.

23. As regards the position of foreign nationals, the following may be noted in this context.

24. Act No. 64 of 24 June 1988 concerning the entry of foreign nationals into the Kingdom of Norway and their presence in the realm (hereinafter referred to as the Immigration Act), entered into force on 1 January 1991. A translation of the Act is contained in annex II. Section 3 of the Act reads:

> "§ 3. The juridical status of foreign nationals.
>
> Unless otherwise provided by legislation currently in force, foreign nationals have during their stay in Norway the same rights and obligations as Norwegian nationals."

25. Thus, in principle, foreign nationals and Norwegians have equal legal status. Exceptions must be provided by law. Such legislation might be necessary, e.g. to make it possible to apply foreign law in certain instances, or to provide for non-equal treatment of nationals and foreign nationals when such differentiation is justifiable.

26. Foreign nationals are entitled to free legal advice without a means test in cases concerning rejection, expulsion or revocation of any permit granted and when applying for asylum, (see the Free Legal Aid Act, section 13, first paragraph, Appendix 3). This section was amended when the Immigration Act was adopted. In cases concerning imprisonment and certain other coercive measures, foreign nationals are entitled to free legal counsel, (see the Immigration Act, section 42, first paragraph).

27. A foreign national may be subject to arrest or remand in custody pursuant to the Immigration Act in the following circumstances:

(a) If there is reason to suspect that a foreign national has given a false identity, the police may direct the foreign national to report to or to stay in a particular area. If such an obligation is not complied with or is deemed to be clearly insufficient, the foreign national may be arrested and imprisoned (section 37, subsection 5) in accordance with the procedure set out in section 174 et seq. of the Criminal Procedure Act.

(b) If necessary in order to implement a decision requiring the foreigner to leave the country, the foreign national may be arrested and imprisoned for a period of two weeks (section 41, subsection 4). Imprisonment may be extended by a maximum of two weeks subject to certain conditions, but not more than twice.

28. The provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act regarding imprisonment, section 175 et seq., apply accordingly. This implies, inter alia, that any decision regarding arrest shall be made in writing (as a general rule) by the prosecuting authority, and tried by the court as soon as possible.

29. According to section 41, subsection 6, of the Immigration Act, arrest and imprisonment shall not be resorted to if, in consideration of the nature of the case and the general circumstances, this would constitute unreasonable

interference, or the court finds that it may instead impose other precautions such as the obligation to report, confiscation of passport or assignment to a particular place of residence.

30. If the immigration authorities have decided that the implementation of a negative decision under the Immigration Act (for instance regarding application for asylum) shall be suspended until an appeal has been decided, the foreign national will immediately be released from custody.

31. In cases regarding custody, the court shall appoint a counsel to represent the foreign national, and the expenses shall be covered by the State (see the Immigration Act, section 42, subsections 1 and 2).

32. As regards the use of arrest and detention according to the provisions of the Immigration Act, the following observations have been made.

33. The possible evasion of a negative decision regarding an application for asylum (see the Immigration Act, section 41, subsection 4) constitutes the most common ground for a request of detention by the police. Arrest and detention pursuant to section 41 may also be requested by the police with respect to foreign nationals residing unlawfully in Norway, i.e. those who do not have residence and work permits or who have violated visa requirements.

34. Section 37, subsection 5, is also relevant, as there has been a continual influx of asylum-seekers whose identity has not been established. Detention is however infrequently used in such cases. The police requests remand in custody in only a minority of the cases concerning arrival of persons who have no proof of identity.

35. It appears that the courts are more reluctant to accept detention pursuant to existing legislation than was the case under legislation previously in force. In several cases the courts have denied detention pursuant to the Immigration Act, section 41, subsection 4, making reference to the travaux préparatoires and the less severe measures provided for in the Immigration Act, sections 17 and 41. These measures shall have been proven insufficient before a court order for remand in custody is given. Imprisonment is not frequently resorted to according to the Immigration Act. Since 1 July 1992 a total of approximately 100 persons have been imprisoned according to the Immigration Act, sections 37 and 41. In this connection it should be mentioned that in 1992 approximately 2,000 asylum-seekers arrived in Norway with false documentation concerning identity or without any documentation at all. Less than 3 per cent of these were imprisoned, mostly because they refused to cooperate with the police and to divulge their identity. The great majority of those who were imprisoned were not detained for more than two weeks. Seven of those imprisoned according to sections 37 and 41 of the Immigration Act were however detained for more than 12 weeks. These cases involved special circumstances, such as criminal activities.

36. The provisions of Chapter 5 of the Immigration Act relate to rejection on entry and the expulsion of foreign nationals, and Chapter 6 governs the procedure and the question of the delaying effect of appeal proceedings.

37. Administrative proceedings for rejection or expulsion pursuant to sections 27, subsection 1 (g), 28 and 29 of the Immigration Act are prepared by the police. Decisions are made by the Directorate of Immigration in the first instance, and may be appealed to the Ministry of Justice. A decision to reject pursuant to section 27, subsection 1 (a)-(f) of the Act is made by the police (section 27, subsection 2). The decision may be appealed to the Directorate of Immigration.

38. If an appeal is made against a decision regarding expulsion, the question arises whether the foreign national may remain in Norway while the appeal is being considered. Pursuant to the Immigration Act, section 39, subsection 1, a decision to expel a foreign national who has a work permit, residence permit or settlement permit in Norway shall not be implemented until the decision has become final. Rejection of a foreign national pursuant to the Immigration Act section 27, i.e. rejection within seven days after entry into the realm, may be implemented immediately (section 39, subsection 1). Rejection according to the Immigration Act, section 28 on the grounds that the foreign national lacks such permit as required in accordance with Chapter 2 shall not be implemented until the foreign national has been given the opportunity to put forward an appeal, and not less than 48 hours after notification of the decision has reached the foreign national (section 39, second paragraph). Exceptions may only be made if necessary for reasons relating to Norway's foreign policy, national security or compelling social considerations (section 43). Otherwise the Public Administration Act, section 42 applies, which means that the subordinate instance or the appeal instance may decide that the administrative decision shall not be implemented until the time-limit for appeal has expired, or the appeal has been decided. The question of delaying effect may also be brought before a court.

39. It should also be noted that certain categories of foreign nationals in Norway enjoy extensive protection against expulsion from the country (see the Immigration Act, section 30). A foreign national who was born in the realm, and has subsequently without interruption had a fixed abode in the realm, may not be expelled. Furthermore, a foreign national who satisfies the requirements for a settlement permit may only be expelled if required for reasons of national security, or if the foreign national has been convicted of an offence or offences which according to Norwegian law incur a penalty of imprisonment for three years or more, and certain other conditions are fulfilled.

40. Because of Norway's dualistic approach to the relationship between domestic law and international law, section 4 of the Immigration Act ensures that in case of conflict between international rules and the Act, the international rules shall prevail when these are intended to strengthen the position of a foreign national.

41. The Government encourages multi-racial organizations and movements which work specifically towards eliminating racial barriers. Several ministries have earmarked some of their resources for this purpose. The Directorate of Immigration, however, is the main sponsor of projects in this area. The Anti-racist Centre and the Norwegian Organization for Asylum-seekers receive annual funding from the central Government.

42. The Prime Minister of Norway has recently taken the initiative to mobilize Norwegian youth against racism through the youth groups of the various political parties. The idea here is that political messages to young people are most effective when they come from youth leaders themselves. A multi-party platform of youth leaders has therefore been given the task and financial resources to formulate and run an anti-racist campaign directed towards youth in the whole of Norway. In conjunction with this, the Prime Minister has also called for a European plan of action against racism, xenophobia and intolerance within the framework of the Council of Europe.

Article 3

43. As mentioned in previous reports, an Act prohibiting the sale, negotiating of the sale, etc. of Norwegian petroleum to South Africa and Namibia was adopted on 20 June 1986. A general economic boycott applying to transactions that are part of commercial activity was adopted by Act No. 15 of 20 March 1987. The Act replaced previous ad hoc measures and marked an important juncture in the development of Norwegian national measures against South Africa and Namibia to combat apartheid.

44. Act No. 15 of 20 March 1987 relating to an economic boycott of South Africa and Namibia to combat apartheid and Act No. 33 of 20 June 1986 relating to prohibitions on sale, negotiating of the sale, etc. of Norwegian petroleum to South Africa and Namibia were amended by Act No. 7 of 30 March 1990 so that the Norwegian economic boycott of South Africa and Namibia no longer applies to Namibia. However, a new section added to both Acts extended the application of the Norwegian sanctions to include areas under South African control as well. These provisions were intended to cover Walvis Bay, which remained under de facto South African control after the independence of Namibia on 21 March 1990. The text of the Act of 30 March 1990 is contained in annex III.

45. A new section 12 was added to the Act of 20 March 1987, by Act No. 48 of 22 May 1992, according to which the Government is authorized to repeal or restrict any prohibition pursuant to the Act when the prohibition is no longer required with regard to the conditions in South Africa, and in order to adapt to international measures applied to South Africa. So far the Government has not made use of this authorization. The text of the Act is contained in annex IV.

46. On 24 May 1991 the Norwegian Government decided to resume diplomatic relations with South Africa and to establish an embassy in Pretoria as of 1 January 1992. The Norwegian Consulate General in Cape Town ceased to exist as of that date.

47. The Government of South Africa upgraded its consulate general in Oslo to embassy status as of 1 January 1992.

48. Norway is one of the major contributors of humanitarian aid to liberation movements, refugees and other victims of the apartheid system. Funds are channelled through liberation movements such as the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), the United Nations and Norwegian and international humanitarian and religious

organizations. Grants are used for competence building and training projects aimed at promoting the democratization process in South Africa. Nkr 130 million was used for this purpose in 1992.

49. Norway has given considerable financial support to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to help the organization to reduce its economic dependence on South Africa. In 1991 a total of Nkr 1.8 billion was transferred bilaterally to SADC countries. Approximately the same amount was transferred in 1992.

50. Norwegian financial support to the SADC Regional Programme amounted to Nkr 165 million in 1992. This support has been given in recognition of the fact that the SADC represents an organized effort to coordinate an economic development process which may contribute to the region's increasing independence from South Africa.

Article 4

51. As regards Article 4 (a), it should be noted that section 232 of the Penal Code was amended by the Act of 16 June 1989, adding racial motivation as an aggravating circumstance when an act of violence has been committed. The fact that an act of violence has been racially motivated will thus lead to a more severe penalty. This applies correspondingly to incitement and being accessory to acts of violence. Section 232 as amended is enclosed as annex V. So far there are no statistics showing the extent to which this provision has been invoked.

52. As regards the two main provisions on racial discrimination, sections 135 (a) and 349 (a) of the Penal Code, reference is made to Norway's initial, third and fourth reports (CERD/C/R.25/Add.4, CERD/C/R.78/Add.9 and CERD/C/22). There have been no relevant legislative amendments or Supreme Court decisions concerning these two provisions during the period covered by the present report.

53. Over the past few years there has been a public debate on whether the correct balance has been struck between protection against racism and protection of the freedom of expression, since relatively few cases concerning section 135 (a) of the Penal Code have been referred to the courts. It should be noted that both of the above-mentioned provisions are subject to unconditional public prosecution according to section 77 of the Penal Code.

54. The Minister of Justice addressed this subject in the Storting on 16 February this year. In her statement she said that the fact that offences covered by section 135 (a) are rarely prosecuted appears to be a problem. This was not because the provision is too narrowly drafted, but because enforcement had not been sufficiently strict. She emphasized the importance of proper enforcement in the future, noting that this is first and foremost the responsibility of the prosecuting authority. She therefore welcomed a statement made recently by the Director General of Public Prosecution, in which he had expressed an open attitude as regards prosecuting in more cases involving dissemination of racism. She also said that if it appears to be necessary, she will consider other ways of ensuring enforcement of this important provision. One possibility might be to extend the right to

prosecute to non-governmental organizations. Such a right would have to come as a supplement to the rule of unconditioned public prosecution, because combating this kind of crime should still be the main responsibility of the State.

55. The Minister of Justice also stated that her Ministry is preparing an amendment to section 292 of the Penal Code, which will make racial motivation an aggravating circumstance in cases of vandalism.

Article 5

56. Foreign nationals and Norwegians have the same legal status unless exceptions are given by law to provide for non-equal treatment of nationals and foreign nationals when such differentiation is justifiable according to article 1 (3) of the Convention.

57. Reference is made to Norway's previous reports concerning the rights ensured by article 5.

58. Foreign nationals who have resided in Norway for a period of three years have the right to participate in local elections, to vote and to stand for election on the basis of universal and equal suffrage. If elected, these persons then take part in local government. In the larger cities, inter alia, Oslo and Stavanger, several foreign nationals have been elected to local government. Unfortunately, there are no statistics showing the total number of foreign nationals in local government.

59. In 1987, 41 per cent of the eligible foreign population participated in local elections. In general, there is a positive correlation between electoral participation and length of residence in Norway. A current study made by the Central Bureau of Statistics shows such a correlation in the results of the 1991 local elections. It is interesting to note, however, that electoral participation on the part of the Vietnamese, Turkish and Sri Lankan communities increased considerably in 1991. Though there was a slight decrease in electoral participation by eligible foreign nationals in 1991 (39 per cent), the difference between electoral participation of foreign nationals and that of the population as a whole has decreased. There was also a decrease, from 20 to 16 per cent, in the number of foreigners who were unaware of their right to vote in 1991.

60. The right to participate in national elections is, however, reserved for Norwegian citizens only. It should be noted that the number of naturalizations have more or less doubled since the 1970s and the early 1980s from around 2,200 per annum to 4,500. In 1992, 4,598 foreign citizens were naturalized (excluding former citizens from the other Nordic countries). The two largest groups to naturalize are former citizens of Pakistan (22 per cent) and Viet Nam (19 per cent).

61. There is no requirement as to minimum length of residence nor is there any restriction whatsoever on the rights of foreign nationals in the conduct of public affairs at any level. All persons residing in Norway, irrespective of citizenship or background, have equal access to public services and equal

civil rights. One of the fundamental principles of Norwegian law is the principle of equal treatment in the public sector. This is also stated explicitly in section 3 of the Immigration Act.

62. A Liaison Committee made up of politicians, representatives from immigrant organizations, and governmental officials was set up in 1977 to ensure that immigrants are able to give their opinion in policy matters that affect them.

63. The Committee's mandate has been extended for a new three-year period (1993-1995). Unlike previous committees, the majority of the immigrant members in the new Committee are women (60 per cent).

64. Two large-scale studies are currently being conducted on the standard of living (in the broadest sense) in the country as a whole and in Oslo in particular. Although the situation of ethnic minorities is not the main focus of these studies, they are also expected to provide new information about the living conditions of these groups.

65. The Ministry of Defence has recently issued regulations for ethnic and religious minorities serving in the armed forces. These regulations apply to Catholics, Jews, members of the Greek and the Russian Orthodox communities, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs. They apply to officers, civilians employed in the armed forces and conscripts (Norway has general conscription).

66. According to the regulations, members of these minorities have the right to alternative food when their religion forbids them to eat any of the dishes on the menu. They are also entitled to the same number of days off in connection with their religious holidays as personnel belonging to the Church of Norway. Furthermore, the regulations on uniforms have been amended to take into account the special needs of the various religious groups. Soldiers belonging to the Sikh community are, for example, entitled to wear a turban.

Article 6

67. Reference is made to the information provided under Articles 2 and 4 of this report concerning legislative protection against discriminatory action.

68. As mentioned under Article 5, all public authorities and bodies, including the courts, are obliged to take into account the equality under the law of all persons regardless of their ethnic, racial, cultural or national origin.

Article 7

Education and teaching

69. The National Council for Primary and Lower Secondary Education and the National Council for Upper Secondary Education both arrange seminars for teachers in which special emphasis is placed on inter-cultural education and the means of combating racism among children and young people. Both Councils are active in the production and distribution of anti-racist material to schools, children and teachers.

70. The Ministry of Local Government and Labour has collaborated with the Directorate of Immigration in developing a teaching programme called "Norway as a multicultural society". At present the programme is being offered to educational and training institutions for the police, journalists, teachers, medical personnel and social workers. In the short run, the goal is to establish and develop continuing education programmes for personnel who are in the workforce today. In the long run, the aim is to integrate topics which are relevant to the development of Norway as a multicultural society into higher education in general. Some of these topics are transcultural communication, discrimination and racism.

71. The teaching programme is based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Culture

72. There are several immigrant organizations working to promote understanding of the situation of immigrants in Norway. There are also many Norwegian organizations engaged in improving communication and contact between Norwegians and immigrants. Several of these organizations receive financial support from the Directorate of Immigration.

73. Other measures include municipal interpreting services, education in mother tongue in primary and secondary school, and State support for the running of immigrant associations and their activities.

Information

74. The Norwegian Government considers information activities to be extremely important in combating all forms of racial discrimination. A number of measures have been initiated to counter disinformation and propaganda directed against immigration and immigrants. The Directorate of Immigration plays a key role in these efforts as it coordinates public information and makes it more goal-oriented and accessible. The Directorate publishes information and background material specially designed for the mass media, schools and the general public. It also trains municipal and State employees and members of youth associations and other organizations in relevant skills and topics.

75. A study on patterns of violence against immigrants has been published by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

76. The Ministry of Local Government and Labour has together with other ministries supported the publication of a legal study on Norway and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and a popular version of the same. The Ministry has, in collaboration with the Law Faculty of the University of Oslo, arranged a public seminar to enhance general knowledge of the Convention among legal practitioners, politicians, journalists and others.

77. In May 1992, the Ministry of Local Government and Labour put forward a plan of action to combat racism and ethnic discrimination. In this connection

a working group comprising representatives from the police, the prosecuting authorities, the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Anti-racist Centre, the Liaison Committee and the Ministries of Justice and of Local Government and Labour was set up. Its task was to find ways of improving the collection of statistical data concerning racial violence, harassment and other forms of racial discrimination, inter alia violations of the sections of the Penal code relating to racism. The working group has put forward several proposals that are at present being considered by the authorities.

78. The Ministry of Local Government and Labour has also supported research and publication of a study on the public debate on immigration affairs.

79. The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation has adopted special programme rules which underline the importance of democratic values. These values require, inter alia, that respect be shown for an individual's religion and ethnic background. The Broadcasting Appeals Board is a joint organ set up to deal with complaints from persons or groups who feel they have been unjustly treated in the broadcasting media.

80. As concerns the code of ethics ("Think twice") of the Norwegian Press Association, reference is made to Norway's fifth periodic report (CERD/C/50/Add.5).